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Atty. Dkt. No. 029471-0150

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Yutaka SATOH

Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PROVIDING
MEDIATOR SERVICES BETWEEN SERVICE
PROVIDER AND SERVICE PURCHASER,
AND COMPUTER PROGRAM FOR SAME

Appl. No.: 09/864,183

Filing Date: 5/25/2001

Examiner: Unknown

Art Unit: 2161

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DEC 12 2003
GROUP 3600

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.56

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO/SB/08 is a listing of documents known to Applicant in order to comply with Applicant's duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56. A copy of each listed document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicant does not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.



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TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The instant Information Disclosure Statement is believed to be filed in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), prior to the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits (first scenario). If that is not the case, such as in a second scenario in which a first Office Action on the merits has been mailed before the filing of the instant Information Disclosure Statement, then either a certification or fee is required, and a certification is provided below. If neither of the first or second scenarios is the case, such as if a final Office Action or a notice of allowance has been mailed by the PTO (third scenario), then both a certification and fee are required, and in that case a certification is provide below and also the PTO is authorized to obtain the necessary fee to have the instant IDS considered, from Foley & Lardner's Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned hereby certifies in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1) that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three (3) months prior to the filing of this Statement.

RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

A translation of a portion of a Japanese Office Action that issued October 21, 2003 with respect to a counterpart Japanese patent application is provided below.

Claims 1 through 23

Cited Literature 1 and 2

Cited Literature 1 and 2 describe a service transaction intermediary system consisting of a service provider, a service purchaser and an intermediary.

Supporting multiple currencies as the currency for settlement of accounts is so well known that no examples need be given.

List of Cited Literature

1. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication H11-96099

2. International Pamphlet Publication No. 00/29989

Applicant's statements regarding the Japanese Office Action are based on a partial translation that Applicant's representative obtained. These statements should in no way be considered as an agreement by Applicant with, or an admission of, what is asserted in the Japanese Office Action.

Applicant respectfully requests that any listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 CFR §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date December 10, 2003

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